

Echoes of Kishore *da*



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THE Big B, in an outfit studded with light-bulbs, giving the term 'shining star' a new meaning. He woos the power-packed audience over, when he sings *Saara zamaana* in the film *Yaarana*. Once the voice of the playback singer reaches your ears, everything dims in brilliance. The voice of Kishore Kumar that shines on, even when a new singer attempts a spin-off on his numbers. Nitin Bali, who is making a "comeback to Hindi music" has tried to do justice to Kishore *da* classics in his latest remix album *Baliwood*.

October 13 marks the 15th death anniversary of the singing phenomenon, Kishore Kumar, who is immortalised in the voice of his successors

"This is not an attempt to imitate the inimitable Kishore Kumar. I could never come even remotely close to him. It is just my way of paying tribute to one of the greatest legends of all

time," goes a footnote on the album. Bali is yet another singer who couldn't resist doing a cover version of the singer's classics. "But I decided not to mess with the melodies, which is the most important aspect of the album," he adds.

Not many singers can belt out romantic numbers like *Yeh Raatein Yeh Mausam* (*Delhi Ka Thug*) so passionately, or turn a light-hearted *Antony Gonsalves* (*Amar Akbar Antony*) into an anthem. "He had the voice of a hero, no matter which genre the song belonged to," says playback singer Babul Supriyo, adding "I have always wanted to sound like him." Says Sonu Nigam, whose style leans towards the Mohammed Rafi school of singing, "Kishore *da* was very naive when he entered the industry and he learnt a lot from the West, and now we are learning from him."

Nigam admits to have sung a couple of Kishore *da* qawwalis and versions during his "days of struggle in Mumbai". Nigam particularly admires his *Aake seedi lagi* number from *Half Ticket*, where he also plays the lead role opposite Madhubala. In this song, he had parodied a female voice, besides singing in a male voice. Singer Abhijeet also confesses to having been strongly influenced by Kishore *da*. "It's because many of my songs are similar to those sung by this legend," he insists, adding, "Every singer is influenced by his voice." The voices may have changed but not the vision.